



A Recipe For Family Problems
Text: Genesis 24:1-67; 25:19-34; 27:1-46
Series: Genesis, #11
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March 14, 2021

Theme: **Failure To Follow God Always Produces Problems.**

Combine Two Parents, Stirring, But Not Blending.

1. A good beginning. (21 – 22; 24:1-4, 50-58; 25:21-26)
2. Evidence and results of not blending.
(25:23, see also 27:1-10, 41-28:2, 26:1-33; 27:1- 28:2; 25:22-28)

Throw In Several Children.

1. Children observe, learn from and follow their parents' examples.
(25:27-28, 27:1-46; see also 26:6-11)
2. Bad examples have influence in ways you cannot see in advance.
(26:34-35, see also Hebrews 12:16-17; 27:14 *f.*; 27:41)

Five Important Lessons:

1. A good beginning is very important, but it doesn't guarantee a good course, a strong, good finish.
2. We must *blend together* with each other and with God or will be *stirring up* a batch of problems.
3. While everyone is responsible for their own actions, everyone learns and follows lessons in their home and from others—good and bad.
4. Failing to follow God and the relationship feuds and fractures that result create deep wounds which are slow to heal.
5. God's promises are certain and His grace is great.

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Yesterday we moved on from Abraham to Isaac. Isaac and Rebekah had a good beginning but did not evidence truly blending as a couple. Review the passages and your notes on the outline. A good beginning is valuable, but not a guarantee of success. Regardless of your beginning in life, spiritually, marriage, lock on to the core truth: failure to follow God always produces problems.

Tuesday. While everyone is responsible for their own actions, they learn lessons from their homes—good and bad. Isaac repeated one of his father's failures (26:6-11). Isaac and Rebekah played favorites with their sons. The ongoing favoritism, scheming and deceit affected the parents and their children. No one likes everyone else equally, but Christians are called to follow God in "maintaining the same love" for others (Philippians 2:2). How are you doing in this today?

Wednesday. Bad examples and relationships have influence and cause deep wounds you cannot see in advance. As you review the outline references on this, also review your example and relationships with your family and others. Make sure that you follow God today in setting an example and relating to others.

Thursday. As you survey Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob, do not forget that God's promises are certain and His grace is great. Do not be bound by your past failures, or those of others. Follow God today, each day.

Friday – Saturday. Next time we plan to look at Jacob's journey "From Jacob To Israel" as seen in chapters 28–35. Take a bird's eye look at this section in preparation for our time together.